

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) A decorative band for completely surrounding a periphery of a food packaging, the food packaging having a lateral annular wall extending between a bottom and an upper face, the decorative band comprising:

a thin film material having two opposite free ends, the thin film extending longitudinally from a first of the two free ends to a second of the two free ends to form a first longitudinal edge and a second longitudinal edge,

wherein the thin film material has at least one first portion, extending longitudinally, having a maximum width L1,

wherein the thin film material has at least one second portion contiguous to said first portion and extending longitudinally and having a minimum width L2, the minimum width L2 being between one third and two thirds of the maximum width L1,

wherein the thin film material is adapted to completely surround said periphery of said lateral annular wall of said food packaging, [[and]]

wherein the first longitudinal edge, from the first of

the two free ends to the second of the two free ends, is rectilinear and parallel to a longitudinal axis of the band, and wherein said maximum width L1 and said minimum width L2 are measured along a general direction which is perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.

14. (previously presented) The band as claimed in claim 13, wherein the second longitudinal edge has a convex profile along the first portion and a concave profile along the second portion, the convex profile being complementary to the concave profile.

15. (previously presented) The band as claimed in claim 13, wherein the second longitudinal edge has a profile of an undulating line.

16. (previously presented) The band as claimed in claim 13, wherein the maximum width L1 is equal to a maximum height H of the lateral wall of the food packaging.

17. (withdrawn - currently amended) A strip of film material comprising printed designs, wherein the printed designs define, in a direction of a width of the strip, a contour of an even number of rows of bands, each band extending longitudinally between two ends and having a first and a second longitudinal

edge, and having at least one first portion extending longitudinally and having a maximum width L1, and at least one second portion having a minimum width L2, the minimum width L2 being between one third and two thirds of the maximum width L1, and the first longitudinal edge being rectilinear and parallel to a longitudinal axis of the band, said maximum width L1 and said minimum width L2 being measured along a general direction which is perpendicular to said longitudinal axis,

wherein the second edge has a convex profile along the first portion and a concave profile along the second portion, the convex profile being complementary to the concave profile, and

wherein the bands are arranged such that the second edges of the bands of two successive rows are adjacent, and such that the first edge of the first row and the first edge of the last row are contiguous to longitudinal edges of the strip.

18. (withdrawn - currently amended) A food packaging having a lateral annular wall extending between a bottom and an upper face, wherein a periphery of the lateral wall is surrounded by a decorative band,

the band extending longitudinally between two ends and having a first and a second longitudinal edge,

the band having at least one first portion extending longitudinally having a maximum width L1, [[and]]

the band having at least one second portion having a

minimum width L2, the minimum width L2 being between one third and two thirds of the maximum width L1,

wherein the first longitudinal edge is rectilinear and parallel to a longitudinal axis of the band, and

wherein said maximum width L1 and said minimum width L2 are measured along a general direction which is perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.

19. (withdrawn) The food packaging as claimed in claim 18,

wherein the lateral annular wall has a cross section which is in the shape of a rectangle with rounded corners, and

wherein at least one first portion of maximum width L1 is arranged on a large side of the lateral wall of the packaging.

20. (withdrawn - currently amended) A method for the production of bands intended for surrounding the periphery of a food packaging, each band extending longitudinally between two ends and having a first and a second longitudinal edge, each band having at least one first portion extending longitudinally and having a maximum width L1, and each band having at least one second portion with a minimum width L2, comprising the step of:

cutting out the first and second longitudinal edges of the bands,

wherein at least the cutting out of the second

longitudinal edge is carried out by means of a device comprising at least one movable laser beam in such a way that the minimum width L2 of the bands is between one third and two thirds of the maximum width L1 and the first edge is rectilinear and parallel to a longitudinal axis of the band, and

wherein said maximum width L1 and said minimum width L2 are measured along a general direction which is perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.

21. (withdrawn) The method for the production of bands as claimed in claim 20, wherein the step of cutting out the longitudinal edges is carried out in a strip of film material having longitudinal edges and comprising printed designs, the printed designs defining, in a direction of a width of the strip, a contour of an even number of rows of the bands arranged on the strip such that the second longitudinal edges of the bands of two successive rows are adjacent, and such that the first longitudinal edge of the band of the first row and the first longitudinal edge of the band of the last row are contiguous to the longitudinal edges of the strip,

the strip traveling with respect to the laser cutting-out device, movements of the laser beam being synchronized with the travel of the strip.

22. (withdrawn - currently amended) A method for the production of food packagings, having a lateral annular wall extending between a bottom and an upper face, wherein the periphery of the lateral wall is surrounded by a decorative band, the band extending longitudinally between two ends and having a first and a second longitudinal edge, the band having at least one first portion extending longitudinally having maximum width L1, and the band having at least one second portion having a minimum width L2, the minimum width L2 being between one third and two thirds of the maximum width L1, the first edge being rectilinear and parallel to the longitudinal axis of the band, wherein said maximum width L1 and said minimum width L2 being measured along a general direction which is perpendicular to said longitudinal axis, the method comprising the steps of:

thermoforming the packagings in molds;

cutting out the longitudinal edges of the bands;

after the cutting step, delivering striplets thus obtained as far as the molds; and

cutting out the ends of the bands, which is carried out in the vicinity of the molds.

23. (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) The band as claimed in claim 15, wherein the undulating line is comprised of a plurality of alternating curves.

25. (previously presented) The band as claimed in claim 13, wherein the two opposite free ends are designed to overlap one another in completely surrounding said periphery of said lateral annular wall of said food packaging.

26. (previously presented) The band as claimed in claim 13, wherein the two opposite free ends are designed abut one another in completely surrounding said periphery of said lateral annular wall of said food packaging.

27. (new) The band as claimed in claim 13, wherein the thin film material comprises two of said first portions.

28. (new) The band as claimed in claim 13, wherein the thin film material comprises two of said second portions.

29. (new) A decorative band for completely surrounding a periphery of a food packaging, the food packaging having a lateral annular wall extending between a bottom and an upper face, the decorative band comprising:

a thin film material having two opposite free ends, the thin film extending longitudinally from a first of the two free ends to a second of the two free ends to form a first and a second longitudinal edge,

wherein the thin film material has at least one first portion, extending longitudinally, having a maximum width L_1 ,

wherein the thin film material has at least one second portion extending longitudinally and having a minimum width L_2 , the minimum width L_2 being between one third and two thirds of the maximum width L_1 ,

wherein the thin film material is adapted to completely surround said periphery of said lateral annular wall of said food packaging,

wherein the first edge, from the first of the two free ends to the second of the two free ends, is rectilinear and parallel to a longitudinal axis of the band, and

wherein the thin film material comprises two of said first portions and two of said second portions, at least one of said second portions being contiguous to a first one of said first portions and to a second one of said first portions.